

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 00105 251755Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-08 DOTE-00 CG-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 L-03 /048 W
-----251918Z 040063 /46
R 251711Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9036
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS NASSAU 0105

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, MOPS, CASC, BF
SUBJ: SAR OPS, S/V PHANTOME

1. ON 19 JANUARY 77 EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY BAHAMAS AIR
SEA RESCUE ASSOCIATION (BASRA) THAT SEARCH AND RESCUE
(SAR) OPERATIONS HAD BEEN INITIATED FOR S/V PHANTOME,
A FOUR MASTED SCHOONER OWNED BY WINDJAMMER CRUISES, INC.,
MIAMI, FL. PHANTOME WAS CARRYING 139 PASSENGERS AND
CREW, MOSTLY US CITIZENS, HAD LOST SAILS AND POWER
AND WAS DRIFTING ONTO A REEF. PHANTOME SUBSEQUENTLY
GROUNDED JUST SOUTH OF PIMLICO ISLAND NEAR ELEUTHERA.

2. AS NEAREST USCG SURFACE UNIT WAS ONE DAY AWAY,
USS PETREL (ASR-14), IN PORT NASSAU ON A ROUTINE R&R
VISIT, SORTIED TO ASSIST IN THE FACE OF UNSEASONABLE
AND VERY ADVERSE WEATHER. USCG HELICOPTERS WERE ALREADY
ON SCENE.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT OF THE 19TH, PETREL
ATTEMPTED TO GET A LINE TO PHANTOME, BUT FAILED, AND
PHANTOME WAS WASHED FURTHER UP ONTO THE REEF. WHILE
ATTEMPTING TO GIVE PHANTOME THE LINE IN A SMALL RUBBER
BOAT, THREE PETREL SAILORS (PETTY OFFICER KIM DAVID
TUROK, PETTY OFFICER BILL MORRIS, JR., AND PETTY
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PAGE 02 NASSAU 00105 251755Z

OFFICER MARION P. MCDONALD, JR.) WERE WASHED INTO THE
SEA, BUT WERE RESCUED BY A USCG HELICOPTER.

4. ON THE MORNING OF 20 JAN 77 PETREL WAS JOINED ON
SCENE BY USCGC STEADFAST AND, ASSISTED BY TWO BASRA
DISPATCHED CIVILIAN BOATS "JAMBOR" AND "YEKMEIKO,"
PHANTOME PASSENGERS, CREW AND BAGGAGE WERE OFFLOADED

INTO PETREL AND STEADFAST. THE CAPTAIN OF PHANTOME AND 12 CREW MEMBERS REMAINED ON BOARD PHANTOME TO ASSIST IN REFLOATING WHEN TUGS ARRIVED.

5. PETREL AND STEADFAST RETURNED PHANTOME'S PASSENGERS AND CREW TO NASSAU P.M. ON 20 JAN 77. SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE NASSAU TUG MARGARITE DEPARTED FOR PHANTOME AND WAS ABLE TO PULL HER FREE A.M. 21 JAN 77.

6. THERE WERE NO MAJOR INJURIES, LOSS OF LIFE OR LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND PHANTOME SUFFERED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE.

7. PERFORMANCE OF ALL US UNITS AND BASRA WAS OUTSTANDING. HANDLING OF RESCUED PASSENGERS BY WINDJAMMER REPRESENTATIVES WAS INITIALLY POOR, BUT WAS RESOLVED FAVORABLY DUE TO EMBASSY EFFORTS. SOME PASSENGERS MADE STATEMENTS INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY OF FILING SUIT AGAINST CAPTAIN MIKE BURKE AND WINDJAMMER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PHANTOME S/V, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NASSAU00105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770027-0233
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770121/aaaaarxn.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b6f9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3511430
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAR OPS, S/V PHANTOME
TAGS: PORS, MOPS, CASC, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b6f9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009